

OBLON SPIVAK ET AL.  
Atty. Docket Number 246860US2 CONT  
Inventor: Takafumi Ito et al.  
Preliminary Amendment

REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are presently active in this case; the specification amended by way of the present preliminary amendment.

The present application is a continuation application of, and claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §120 to, Application Serial Number 09/714,189, filed November 17, 2000 ("the parent application"), which is a continuation of PCT/JP00/01619, filed March 16, 2000, which claims priority to Japanese Patent Application No. JP11-71737, filed March 17, 1999. Thus, the present preliminary amendment amends the specification to incorporate the parent application by reference as suggested by The Manual Of Patent Examining Procedure.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, an examination on the merits of Claims 1-14 is believed to be in order, and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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<sup>1</sup>See M.P.E.P. §201.06(c) Incorporation By Reference.